



## Push to arm Ukraine putting strain on U.S. weapons stockpile

By B. FOX, A. MADHANI,  
J. REEVES and D. HUFF

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The planes take off almost daily from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware — hulking C-17s loaded up with Javelins, Stingers, howitzers and other material being hustled to Eastern Europe to resupply Ukraine's military in its fight against Russia.

The game-changing impact of those arms is exactly what President Joe Biden hopes to spotlight as he visits a Lockheed Martin plant in Alabama on Tuesday that builds the portable Javelin anti-tank weapons that have played a crucial role in Ukraine.

But Biden's visit is also drawing attention to a growing concern as the war drags on: Can the U.S. sustain the cadence of shipping vast amounts of arms to Ukraine while maintaining the healthy stockpile it

may need if a new conflict erupts with North Korea, Iran or elsewhere?

The U.S. already has provided about 7,000 Javelins, including some that were delivered during the Trump administration, about one-third of its stockpile, to Ukraine, according to an analysis by Mark Cancian, a senior adviser with the Center for Strategic and International Studies international security program. The Biden administration says it has committed to sending about 5,500 to Ukraine since the Russian invasion more than two months ago.

Analysts also estimate that the United States has sent about one-quarter of its stockpile of shoulder-fired Stinger missiles to Ukraine. Raytheon Technologies CEO Greg Hayes told investors last week during a quarterly call that his company, which makes the

weapons system, wouldn't be able to ramp up production until next year due to parts shortages.

"Could this be a problem?

The short answer is, "Probably, yes," said Cancian, a retired Marine colonel and former government specialist on Pentagon budget

strategy, war funding and procurement.

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Airmen push over 8,000 pounds of 155 mm shells on to a C-17 cargo aircraft for transport, ultimately bound for Ukraine, Friday, April 29, 2022, at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

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## Push to arm Ukraine putting strain on U.S. weapons stockpile

Continued from front

He said that Stingers and Javelins were where "we're seeing the most significant inventory issues," and production of both weapons systems has been limited in recent years.

The Russian invasion offers the U.S. and European defense industry a big opportunity to bolster profits as lawmakers from Washington to Warsaw are primed to increase defense spending in response to Russian aggression. Defense con-

tractors, however, face the same supply chain and labor shortage challenges that other manufacturers are facing, along with some others that are specific to the industry. Globally, total military spending rose 0.7% to more

than \$2 trillion for the first time in 2021, according to an April report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Russia ranked fifth, as its spending on weapons increased ahead of its invasion of Ukraine.

The war will mean increased sales for some defense contractors, including Raytheon, which makes the Stinger missiles Ukrainian troops have used to knock out Russian aircraft. The company is also part of a joint venture with Lockheed Martin that makes the Javelins.

Biden will visit Lockheed Martin's facility in Troy, Ala., which has the capacity to manufacture about 2,100 Javelins per year. The trip comes as he presses Congress to quickly approve his request for an additional \$33 billion in security and economic assistance for Kyiv, Western allies and restocking weapons the U.S. has sent to those countries. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Monday he hoped quick bipartisan agreement on the security package could be reached so the Senate could begin considering it "as early as next week."

The president is expected to use his remarks to highlight the importance of the Javelins and other U.S. weaponry in helping Ukraine's military put up a vigorous fight as he makes the case to keep security and economic assistance flowing.

A White House official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and

requested anonymity, said the Pentagon is working with defense contractors "to evaluate the health of weapons systems' production lines and examine bottlenecks in every component and step of the manufacturing process." The administration is also considering a range of options, if needed, to boost production of both Javelins and Stingers, the official said. Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said Monday that America's military readiness is not dependent on one system, such as the Javelin. He said that every time the Pentagon develops a package of weapons to send to Ukraine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the department assesses the broader impact.

"It's not about counting say Javelins and being able to say that when you reach a certain level then all your readiness is gone," Kirby said. "The Javelin is an anti-armor capability, so we judge it all as a conglomerate of what's our ability to meet this particular mission set, realizing that a Javelin isn't the only capability you have against armor."

Cancian, the former government specialist on defense budget strategy, said the fact that Stingers and Javelins were not included in the most recent tranche of weapons the Biden administration announced it was sending to Ukraine could be a sign that Pentagon officials are mindful about inventory as they conduct contingency planning for other possible conflicts. □

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## Jill Biden: Resilience of Ukrainian refugees 'inspires me'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Jill Biden said she is heading to Romania and Slovakia later this week to visit with Ukrainian families who fled for their lives after Russia invaded their country in hopes of sending the message, despite language barriers, "that their resilience inspires me." The White House announced late Sunday that the first lady will spend Mother's Day meeting Ukrainian refugees, most of whom are women and children.

The May 8 meeting will take place in Slovakia. Biden is scheduled to depart Washington late Thursday on a five-day trip that will also take her to Romania. Both countries share borders with Ukraine, which has spent the past two months fighting off Russia's military invasion. Romania and Slovakia also are NATO members.

She discussed the trip Monday while touring a costume exhibit at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, saying she would spend the U.S. holiday dedicated to honoring mothers with Ukrainian families who have been displaced by Russian President Vladimir Putin's war.



First lady Jill Biden speaks at the unveiling of the Met Museum Costume Institute's exhibit "In America: A Lexicon of Fashion" on Monday, May 2, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

"As a mother myself, I can only imagine the grief families are feeling," said Biden, a mother of three. "I know that we might not share a language, but I hope that I can convey, in ways so much greater than words, that their resilience inspires me, that they are not forgotten, and that all Americans stand with them still." The trip will mark Biden's latest show of solidarity with Ukraine.

Nearly 5.5 million Ukrainians, mostly women and

children, have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded its smaller neighbor on Feb. 24, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Many have resettled in neighboring countries or relocated elsewhere in Europe.

Throughout the trip, Biden will also meet with U.S. service members, U.S. Embassy personnel, humanitarian aid workers and educators who are helping teach displaced Ukrainian children. The first lady will travel to Slovakia to meet with staff at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, the capital.

After arriving in Romania on Friday, she is scheduled

to meet with U.S. service members at Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, a U.S. military installation near the Black Sea. The schedule then takes her to the Romanian capital of Bucharest on Saturday to meet with government officials, U.S. Embassy staff, humanitarian aid workers and educators who are helping teach displaced Ukrainian children. The first lady will travel to Slovakia to meet with staff at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, the capital.

On May 8, Biden will travel to Kosice and Vysne Nemecke in Slovakia to meet with refugees, humanitarian aid workers and local Slovaks who are supporting Ukrainian families that have sought refuge in Slovakia. She plans to meet with members of Slovakia's government on May 9 before returning to the United States.

President Joe Biden visited with Ukrainian refugees during a stop in Poland in March.

The trip will be the first lady's second overseas to represent the United States by herself, following her journey to Tokyo last year for the opening of the delayed 2020 Olympic Games. The trip also will mark her latest gesture of solidarity with Ukraine. Four days after Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, Biden appeared at a White House event wearing a face mask embroidered with a sunflower, Ukraine's national flower. She also invited Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova, to sit with her during President Biden's State of the Union address in March and had a sunflower sewn into the sleeve of the cobalt blue dress she wore for the occasion. □

## Supreme Court rules against Boston in Christian flag case

By MARK SHERMAN  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A unanimous Supreme Court ruled Monday that Boston violated the free speech rights of a conservative activist when it refused his request to fly a Christian flag on a flagpole outside City Hall.

Justice Stephen Breyer wrote for the court that the city discriminated against the activist, Harold Shurtleff, because of his "religious viewpoint," even though it had routinely approved applications for the use of one of the three flagpoles outside City Hall that fly the U.S., Massachusetts and Boston flags.

Occasionally, the city takes down its own pennant and

temporarily hoists another flag.

Shurtleff and his Camp Constitution wanted to fly a white banner with a red cross on a blue background in the upper left corner, called the Christian flag, to mark Constitution Day, Sept. 17, in 2017.

The city had approved 284 consecutive applications to fly flags, usually those of other nations, before it rejected Shurtleff's because it was a Christian flag. The city said he could fly a different banner, but Shurtleff refused, and lower courts upheld the city's decision. But the high court said the lower courts and the city were wrong. The case hinged on whether the flag-flying is an act of the

government, in which case Boston can do whatever it wants, or private parties like Shurtleff, Breyer wrote.

"Finally, we look at the extent to which Boston actively controlled these flag raisings and shaped the messages the flags sent. The answer, it seems, is not at all. And that is the most salient feature of this case," Breyer wrote in an opinion that also riffed on the brutalist architectural style of Boston's City Hall and the Siena, Italy-inspired 7-acre plaza on which it sits.

Breyer wrote that "the city's lack of meaningful involvement in the selection of flags or the crafting of their messages leads us to classify the flag raisings as private, not government,



The American flag, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag, and the City of Boston flag, from left, fly outside Boston City Hall, Monday, May 2, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

speech—though nothing prevents Boston from changing its policies going forward." Shurtleff is a former organizer with the John Birch Society and has used his Camp Constitution website to

question the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, the outcome of the 2020 election that put President Joe Biden in office, the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines and even who was behind the Sept. 11 attacks. □

## Arrest warrant issued in Alabama for missing jail official

FLORENCE, Ala. (AP) —

Authorities issued an arrest warrant Monday for a jail official who they say helped an inmate awaiting trial on a murder charge to escape from an Alabama jail. A search was on for the pair. Inmate Casey Cole White, 38, was shackled and handcuffed when he and Vicky White, the facility's assistant director of corrections, left the Lauderdale County Detention Center in Florence, Alabama, on Friday morning. They have not been seen since, although the patrol vehicle that the pair used when leaving the detention center was found at a nearby shopping center parking lot after their absence was discovered.

Authorities have no idea where they are, although the inmate should be recognizable by his size. He stands 6 feet, 9 inches (2.06 meters) tall and weighs about 260 pounds. Authorities warned that anyone seeing the pair should not approach them.

"We consider both of them dangerous and in all probability, both individuals are armed," U.S. Marshal Marty Keely said at a press conference Monday. He noted that Casey White "will stand out" because of his size even if he has changed



This combination of photos provided by the U.S. Marshals Service and Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office in April 2022 shows Casey Cole White, left, and Assistant Director of Corrections Vicky White.

Associated Press

his appearance.

Lauderdale County Sheriff Rick Singleton said Monday that they had issued an arrest warrant for Vicky White, 56, on charges of permitting or allowing an escape. She is not related to White. She violated a policy that required more than one official to be involved in transporting him, according to Singleton. The policy was put in place when White was jailed two years ago and authorities believed he was planning to escape.

"We know she participat-

ed, whether she did that willingly or if she was coerced, threatened somehow to participate in the case, not really sure. We know for sure she did participate," Singleton said. Vicky White told co-workers she was taking him to the courthouse for a mental health evaluation. But Singleton later said no such evaluation was scheduled. He said video showed the pair left the jail and went straight to that parking lot. "Casey White, as you've heard me say over and

over and over is an extremely dangerous person and we need to get him located and get him off the street," Singleton said.

White was already serving a 75-year prison sentence for attempted murder, robbery and burglary when he disappeared. He had been brought back to the jail because of his latest charge. He was set to go to trial next month on a capital murder charge accusing him of stabbing a 58-year-old woman to death during a burglary in 2015. If

convicted, he could face the death penalty. The U.S. Marshals Service is offering up to \$10,000 for information. The sheriff said they were shocked by the events that transpired.

"This is not the Vicky White we know, by any stretch of the imagination," the sheriff said. Singleton said Vicky White had been an exemplary employee and jail employees are "just devastated."

Vicky White had planned to retire and that Friday was to be her last day. He said she had sold her home about a month ago and "talked about going to the beach."

The sheriff said they had no leads at this point on where the two are located.

"If we knew where they were at, we would be there and not here," Singleton said.

As an assistant director for corrections, Vicky White moved throughout the county detention facility several times a day and had multiple opportunities every day to be in contact with any given inmate, the sheriff said. Her job duties also included coordinating transport of inmates.

Vicky White's mother, Pat Davis, told WAAY that she is in shock and scared for her daughter. □



In this Jan. 3, 1997, file photo, a police officer sits in her cruiser outside the home in which 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey was found murdered in Boulder, Colorado on Dec. 26, 1996.

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The father of JonBenet Ramsey is supporting an online petition asking Colorado's governor to intervene in the investigation into her death more than 25 years ago by putting an outside agency

in charge of DNA testing in the case.

The 6-year-old was found dead in the basement of her family's home in Boulder on Dec. 26, 1996, bludgeoned and strangled, several hours after her moth-

## JonBenet Ramsey's father wants outside agency to test DNA

er called 911 to say her daughter was missing and a ransom note had been left behind. Her death was ruled a homicide, but nobody was ever prosecuted. John Ramsey said wants DNA evidence that was never tested before to be transferred away from Boulder police to a different agency, KUSA-TV reported Sunday. "Somehow we've got to force the police, or take it away from them, the ability to go ahead and test some of the crime scene evidence that was never tested for DNA," he said. "Why that's never been done and will never be done by the police baffles

me." The petition notes that advancements in DNA and the use of genetic genealogy is leading to the solving of more cold case around the country. It criticizes the Boulder Police Department for not doing enough to use DNA to solve the case, noting that the department said at the time of the 25th anniversary of JonBenet's death that it was "actively reviewing genetic DNA testing processes" to see if those could be applied to the case.

In a statement, a spokesperson for Polis said "The State will review the petition and look into how the state can assist in using new

technology to further investigate this cold case and to identify JonBenet Ramsey's killer." The statement did not address the involvement of Boulder police.

Meanwhile, the Boulder Police Department said it has been working with state law enforcement agencies and the FBI, on the investigation and that DNA from the case is regularly checked for any new matches. As of December, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has updated over 750 DNA samples from the investigation with the latest DNA technology, the department said in a statement. □

## Despite UK clampdown bid, 100s cross Channel in small boats

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Hundreds of people have crossed the English Channel in small boats in the last 24 hours, British officials said Monday, after more than a week in which none of the hazardous journeys were reported. The Ministry of Defense said 254 people arrived on the English coast in seven boats from northern France on Sunday, and more people were brought ashore by British lifeboats on Monday. The crossings had all but halted since April 20, a few days after Britain announced a plan to send some asylum-seekers to Rwanda. But officials said rough weather, rather than the new policy, was the likely reason for the lull. Thousands of people a year try to cross one of the world's busiest shipping lanes in dinghies and other fragile craft in hope of a new life in the U.K. More than 28,000 migrants entered Britain across the Channel last year, up from 8,500 in 2020. Dozens have died, including 27 people in November when a packed boat capsized.

In a dramatic — and, critics say, illegal — move, Britain's Conservative government announced last month that



## BF HURRICANE

A group of people thought to be migrants are brought in to Dover, Kent, onboard a Border Force vessel, following a small boat incident in the English Channel, Monday May 2, 2022.

Associated Press

it had struck a deal with Rwanda to send some asylum seekers who arrive as stowaways in trucks or on boats to the East African country. The agreement says the migrants' asylum applications will be processed in Rwanda and, if successful, they will stay there rather than coming to Britain.

The British government says the plan will discourage people from making the dangerous journeys and will put people-smuggling gangs out of business. But

it has been condemned by refugee organizations and human-rights groups, and faces legal challenges. The government has also passed a new law that makes it an offence to knowingly arrive in the U.K. without authorization, a move critics say amounts to criminalizing refugees. The charity Care4Calais, which works with migrants in northern France, said many asylum seekers were determined to make the journey despite the new rules. "Refugees have escaped

from the worst horrors in this world," the group said on Twitter. "When you're risking your life, what else do you have to lose? When someone explains 'even death wouldn't stop me' trying to get to the UK, it's clear that even the threat of Rwanda won't change anything."

Migrants have long used northern France as a launching point to reach Britain, a destination favored by many for reasons of language or family ties, or because of Britain's perceived open economy.

The British and French governments have worked for years to stop the journeys, without much success, and have bickered over who is responsible for the failure. Lawmaker Pierre-Henri Dumont, the French National Assembly member for Calais, said the Rwanda plan would likely have little effect. "When you leave your country because of war, because of starvation ... at least if you have a chance, you will try," he told the BBC. "We are going to the summer so we will have less waves and less danger for the smugglers. So we will have more and more people going to cross."

Relations between Britain and France have grown increasingly testy since the U.K. left the European Union in 2020. Enver Solomon, chief executive of Britain's Refugee Council, urged the British government to have a "grown-up conversation with France and the EU about sharing responsibility."

"We need a fair and humane asylum system, with means well thought-out, long-term solutions that address why people are forced from their homes, and provides them with safe routes to the U.K," he said. □

## Death in Ukraine's Kharkiv is everywhere, rarely explained

By FELIPE DANA  
Associated Press  
**KHARKIV, Ukraine (AP)** — The outskirts of Kharkiv have the feel of an open-air morgue, where the dead lie unclaimed and unexplained, sometimes for weeks on end, as Ukrainian and Russian forces fight for control of slivers of land.

There is the charred body of a man, unidentifiable, propped on an anti-tank barrier made of crossed I-beams outside a town that has been under the control of both sides in recent days. There are the dead soldiers, apparently Russian, four of them arranged in a Z like the military symbol found on Russian armored vehi-

cles, visible to the Russian drones that continuously buzz overhead. The door to an apartment opens to three bodies inside.

Precisely how any of this happened will likely never be known.

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, has been under sustained Russian attack since the beginning of the war in late February. With the Russian offensive intensifying in the east, the Russian onslaught has grown fiercer.

Considered a strategic and industrial prize, territory on the eastern city's outskirts has gone back and forth between Russian and Ukrainian forces for weeks now

as the fighting shifts from village to village. Many, but by no means all, of Kharkiv's 1 million residents have fled.

Associated Press journalists saw the bodies formed into a Z, wearing the white arm bands commonly used by Russian soldiers, and with some Russian medical kits alongside. They were found on a front line where fighting had been taking place for days. They, along with the burned man, were taken to a morgue on Monday. There was no explanation for the Z formation — a symbol of the Russian invasion — nor the burned body propped on the barrier. Either could be considered a



A building heavily damaged by multiple Russian bombardments stands near a frontline in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Monday, April 25, 2022.

Associated Press

war crime, for disrespecting the dignity of the dead. Next will come the investigation into their identities, maybe an attempt to notify family. But even that is hard to untangle. The body of a

man with Ukrainian insignia turned out to have the identity papers of a Russian soldier. The apartment where the three bodies were found had been badly shelled, but it wasn't clear what killed them. □

## Israel holding more than 600 without charge, most since 2016

By JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel is holding some 600 Palestinian detainees without charge or trial, the highest number since 2016, an Israeli rights group said Monday.

Israel says it uses so-called administrative detention to thwart attacks and to hold dangerous militants without revealing sensitive intelligence. Palestinians and rights groups say the system is widely abused and denies due process, with some detainees held for months or years without seeing the evidence against them.

HaMoked, an Israeli rights group that regularly gathers figures from prison authorities, said that as of May there were 604 detainees held in administrative detention. Nearly all are Palestinians, as administrative detention is very rarely used against Jews.

HaMoked says 2,441 Palestinians are serving sentences after being convicted in military courts. Another 1,478 detainees are being held for questioning, have been charged and are awaiting trial, or are currently being tried.

Israel has seen a wave of attacks in recent weeks that have killed at least 15 people. It has carried out



Palestinians attend a protest in solidarity with Hisham Abu Hawash, center, an Islamic Jihad member held by Israel under administrative detention, in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Jan. 2, 2022.

Associated Press

arrest raids across the occupied West Bank that it says are aimed at preventing more. Those operations have ignited violent protests and gunbattles.

At least 29 Palestinians have been killed, according to an Associated Press tally. Most were killed after carrying out attacks or during clashes with Israeli forces, but an unarmed woman and two people who appear to have been bystanders were also killed. The last time Israel held this

many administrative detainees, in October 2016, was also in the wake of a surge in violence, including stabbings, shootings and car-ramming attacks carried out by Palestinians.

"Administrative detention is used only when the security forces have credible and well-established information of an actual security threat posed by the detainee, and when other avenues to remove the threat are not feasible," the army said in a statement.

Israel says all administrative detention orders are subject to judicial review. Detainees can appeal to a military court of appeals or Israeli's Supreme Court, but rights groups say the courts overwhelmingly defer to the security establishment. Jessica Montell, the director of HaMoked, said violence does not justify detaining hundreds of people for months or years without charge.

"It's like an assembly line of administrative detention,

far in excess of what can be justified under international law," she said, which only allows preventive detention under rare circumstances for a limited period of time.

Those held could include dangerous militants, but also cases of mistaken identity. A teenager with a rare neuromuscular disorder has been held in administrative detention for over a year. "We have no idea what they're suspected of, and many of them also have no idea what actually are the allegations against them, because it's entirely based on secret evidence," Montell said.

Several Palestinians in administrative detention have gone on prolonged hunger strikes in protest, with many developing lifelong health issues. Administrative detainees and their lawyers have boycotted Israeli military court proceedings since the start of this year in protest. The courts are holding hearings without them, according to B'Tselem, another prominent Israeli rights group.

The West Bank has been under Israeli military rule since Israel captured the territory in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want it to form the main part of their future state. □



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, rescuers evacuate a woman pulled alive from a collapsed building in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province, May 1, 2022.

Associated Press

**BEIJING (AP)** — Two people were rescued Sunday from the rubble of a building in central China more than 50 hours after it collapsed, leaving dozens trapped or missing, state media said. Separately, police arrested nine people including the

building owner on suspicion of causing a major liability accident, the official Xinhua News Agency said. State broadcaster CCTV showed video of rescuers bringing a woman out on a stretcher about 4:30 p.m. Some could be heard

## 2 people rescued 50 hours after China building collapse

shouting words of encouragement during the operation. She was taken to a hospital and is in stable condition, CCTV said. State media reported another person was brought out alive in the evening but provided no details.

Seven people have been rescued from the building, which collapsed Friday afternoon in the inland city of Changsha, the capital of Hunan province. About 20 others remained trapped, and another 39 had not been accounted for as of late Saturday. Besides the owner, police said they had arrested three people in charge of design and

construction and five others for what they said was a false safety assessment for a guest house on the building's fourth to sixth floors.

In photos the building appeared to have pancaked down to about the second floor, leaving rubble strewn on the sidewalk. It had stood in a row of buildings about six stories tall.

Xinhua said the building had eight floors, including a restaurant on the second floor, a cafe on the third floor and residences on the top two floors. Other media reports said it was a six-story building. Tenants had made structural modifications to the building, but

the cause of the collapse remained under investigation, Xinhua said.

Police said the Hunan Xiangda Engineering Testing Co. issued the false safety report on April 13. The arrested included the legal representative of the company and four technicians suspected of providing the assessment.

Following an increase in the number of collapses of self-built buildings in recent years, Chinese President Xi Jinping said Saturday that it was necessary to check such structures for any hidden dangers and fix them to prevent major accidents, Xinhua said. □

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## Mexico Caribbean beaches may see worst sargassum since 2018

By MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexi-

can authorities say the problem of foul-smelling seaweed-like algae on the country's Caribbean coast beaches is "alarming." The arrival of heaps of brown sargassum on the coast's normally pristine white sand beaches comes just as tourism is recovering to pre-pandemic levels, though job recovery in the country's top tourist destination has been slower.

With more algae spotted floating out at sea, experts fear that 2022 could be as bad or worse than the catastrophic year of 2018, the biggest sargassum wave to date. "We can say the current situation is alarming," said Navy Secretary José Ojeda, who has been entrusted with the apparently hopeless task of trying to gather sargassum at sea, before it hits the beaches. The Navy currently has 11 sargassum-collecting boats operating in the area. But the Navy's own figures show that the portion they have been able to collect before it hits the beach has been falling.

In 2020, the Navy collected 4% of sargassum at sea, while 96% was raked off beaches. But that figure fell to 3% in 2021 and about 1% so far in 2022.

Allowing the algae to reach the beaches creates not only a problem for tourists, but for the environment, said Rosa Rodríguez Martínez, a biologist in the beachside town of Puerto Morelos who studies reefs and coastal ecosystems for Mexico's National Autonomous University.

So much algae is reaching the beaches that hotels and local authorities are using bulldozers and backhoes, because the normal

teams of rakes, shovels and wheelbarrows are no longer enough.

"The heavy machinery, when it picks it (sargassum) up, takes a large amount of sand with it," contributing to beach erosion, Rodríguez Martínez said. "There is so much sargassum that you can't use small-scale equipment anymore, you have to use the heavy stuff, and when the excavators come in, they remove more sand."

Rodríguez Martínez worries that 2022 could be worse than the previous peak year. "In the last few days there have been amounts washing up, and in places, that I didn't see even in 2018," she said.

However, the University of South Florida Optical Oceanography Lab said in a report that "2022 is likely going to be another moderate or major sargassum year," with observable amounts in all waters lower than in 2018 and 2021. But given the vagaries of ocean currents, it may just be a very bad year for Mexico. Rodríguez Martínez is already suffering the effects herself, at her beachside offices.

"Where I am, I'm about 50 meters (yards) from the beach and the smell is very unpleasant," she said. "Right now my head is hurting and another friend said her head hurts, and I said it must be the (hydrogen) sulfide gas from the sargassum, no?"

The problem comes just as resorts like Cancun, Playa del Carmen and Tulum are recovering from the brutal two-year drop in tourism caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Not all beaches have been hit equally; many in Cancun and Isla Mujeres are often free of much sargassum, but

much of the Riviera Maya has been hit hard.

Carlos Joaquin, governor of the coastal state of Quintana Roo, said the number of tourists arriving by air so far this year — some 3.54 million travelers — is 1.27% above 2019 levels, before the pandemic. But Joaquin said that only about 83% of the 98,000 jobs lost during the pandemic have returned. Sergio León, the former head of the state's employers' federation, said the seaweed invasion "has definitely affected us, it has affected our image on the domestic and international level. Obviously, not just visually, but in term of environmental damage and pain." "The Navy is making an effort, but it needs more, it isn't enough," said León. "The ideal thing would be to gather it before it gets to our beaches."

Rodríguez Martínez said that, given the limited number of Navy boats and funds, the best solution might be to hang floating offshore barriers and collect the sargassum in waters closer to the shore. But she notes another problem: what to do with the thousands of tons of stinking algae collected each year, mainly by private hotel owners. Some have simply been tossing the mounds collected from the beach into disused limestone quarries, where the salt and minerals collected in the ocean can leech into groundwater.

Other simply toss into woodlands or mangrove swamps, which is equally as bad.

"The algae has a lot of salt ... so that is not good, even for palm trees, which are pretty salt resistant," she noted.

While some have tried to use sargassum to create



A boat floats on the water, surrounded by sargassum, a seaweed-like algae, in Bahia La Media Luna, near Akumal in Quintana Roo state, Mexico, Aug. 5, 2018.

Associated Press

bricks or fertilizer, the lack of official policies and long term plans make it hard to obtain big investments for such plans.

Initial reports in the 2010s suggested the masses of seaweed came from an

area of the Atlantic off the northern coast of Brazil, near the mouth of the Amazon River. Increased nutrient flows from deforestation or fertilizer runoff could be feeding the algae bloom. □

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## Test today, fly tomorrow during the holidays

PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers has improved its services when it comes to turn around time for results. As of November its offering same day test results ( previously it was 24 hours) on both PCR and Antigen tests.

This in part is to comply with the updated December 6, CDC requirement for travel to the United States, where all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States.

MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM. These two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that specializes in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servicio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servicio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).



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- Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort and Casino
- Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort
- The Ritz-Carlton Resort.

Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

### Private bookings

For your convenience, Medcare also offers private testing at your accommodation/hotel room for a one-time service fee of \$120. This fee covers testing up to 10 people (one appointment, at one location and a specific time). Additional persons will be charged \$10 per person. Regular testing fees applies.□

### For more information, please contact:

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## The Saharan Air Layer will be present on the Island for another day



Oranjestad - Aruba Weather Watch previously issued a forecast in which it informed that visibility would be reduced to the presence of fine dust from the Sahara Desert.

The Saharan dust cloud, as its name suggests, comes from the Sahara desert. When the general direction of the wind in the upper part of our atmosphere is blowing the southern part of the southwest towards the northern part of the northeast, the dust particles can be carried far onto other parts, even into parts of the European continent. Often Originating from the Algerian deserts, the dust particles are sometimes brought even further into eastern, western, northern Europe as well.

This phenomenon forms what's known as The Saharan Air Layer, which is a mass of very dry air, filled with the desert dust that formed over the Sahara Desert, which usually happens during late spring, summer and early autumn. It will move over every three to five days, with sometimes the event reaching very high volumes of dust and reaching further and further.

According to the forecast previously published, the presence of this fine dust would reduce the visibility on the Island. A new forecast has now informed that the Saharan air layer will stay for another day on the Island. Radar images have shown that there will be a decrease by Tuesday and by Wednesday morning there will be a clearer sky. □



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## Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch

**NOORD** — We are in 2022. It's been a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are ten plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.

### Tempting times

Do you remember the feeling as a kid, when you went to the store with your mom and the baker gave you a sweet roll, the butcher a slice of ham and they all took time to talk to each other? That time when doing groceries on a Saturday meant fun, making friends, and creating connections. To be fully aware in the moment and enjoying the time together sounds like a controversy today. Everything is efficient, there's no-time-to-waste and while doing one task the mind is already thinking ahead to what is next on your to-do list. Did Covid-19 teach us anything? Weren't we telling each other during the lockdown that we would pay more attention to each other? Wasn't the message that health and happiness is so much more valuable than hitting targets and implement to-do tasks? The pandemic prevents us from connecting physically. Tight hugs and shaking hands firmly are no longer a natural thing. We live in a world of face masks hides smiles, and hands are sanitized after each touch. This is not who we are. We are in search for connection.

### From human to human

If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are looking for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that offers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want? This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart."



### One stop shopping point

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Berend Prenger are a fantastic, experienced duo, each of them specialists in the field. Berend is also a certified appraiser within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "This definitely speeds up the process of buying," Prenger adds.

### You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch."

Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buy-

ers and 60 % foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that, Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association, they are listed also on the website [www.arubalisting.com](http://arubalisting.com) within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured on House Hunters, social media, Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. □

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## Kimberly Palmer: To fight inflation, take down food expenses

By KIMBERLY PALMER  
of NerdWallet

Like many shoppers, I've noticed my grocery bill getting bigger each week: February food prices were 7.9% higher than they were a year ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. To compensate for my family's busy spring schedule, I'd also been turning to shortcuts like prepackaged snacks and meal kits, which further added to our total bill. To counteract these pressures, I applied all my go-to savings tricks: opting in to my grocery store's loyalty program for extra discounts, using a credit card that gave me bonus cash back on grocery purchases, and planning our weekly menus around sales. Still, shopping for my family of five continued to give me sticker shock.

For extra guidance, I turned to budgeting and cooking experts with experience making food spending more manageable, as the USDA predicts food prices will continue to increase, growing 4.5% to 5.5% in 2022. Here are their best tips for saving money on food:

### CONTROL WHAT YOU CAN

While so much about the economy can feel completely outside of our control, including rising interest rates, inflation and supply chain challenges, our food spending is actually one area where we hold a lot

of sway, says Erin Lowell, a Bowdoin, Maine-based lead educator at You Need a Budget, a budgeting app. By spending more time cooking or substituting cheaper ingredients, you can feel an immediate savings impact, she says, unlike with other costs, such as bills or rent, which can be harder to change.

Lowell suggests assessing how much effort you're currently putting into minimizing your food spending and taking that effort up to the next level. For example, if you currently order pizza for delivery, then consider buying a nice frozen pizza for a quarter of the cost. If you already buy frozen pizza, then consider making your own from scratch for just a few dollars' worth of ingredients.

### PLAN YOUR MEALS

"When people are overspending on food, it's almost always because they're eating out too often," says Jake Cousineau, a personal finance teacher in Thousand Oaks, California, and the author of "How to Adult: Personal Finance for the Real World." He says planning ahead is key to combating the temptation to order takeout at the last minute.

"If you meal prep on Sunday and make six to seven meals, you're not faced with that decision of 'Should I order out or prepare food?' every night," Cousineau says. He typically cooks meat for Sunday that he



A man browses in the meat department at Lambert's Rainbow Market, on June 15, 2021 in Westwood, Mass.

Associated Press

can use in tacos, pasta and salad later in the week, for example. "You can do the heavy lifting Sunday, then mix and match throughout the week."

Planning also helps you avoid food waste, which is another budget killer, warns Rob Bertman, a certified financial planner and family budget expert in St. Louis. "Buy in bulk for things you know you will go through, but if food sits in the freezer or pantry and gets thrown in the trash, that gets expensive." He and his wife keep a list of the potential side and main dishes they have on hand in the freezer, fridge and pantry so they don't forget to use those ingredients.

### BE RESOURCEFUL IN THE KITCHEN

Maggie Hoffman, a Brooklyn, New York-based digital director at cooking website Epicurious, suggests substituting recipe ingredients for

ones you already have at home. "Be confident in your cooking: If you have farro, use that instead of brown rice. Use hot sauce or vinegar instead of lemon."

Hoffman also recommends "next-overing," which is transforming the previous night's dish into something new. Roast chicken one night can become enchilada fillings the next, for example.

Beans, which are generally inexpensive, are also a flexible staple, she adds. You can serve them on their own or add them to salads or soups. "Beans are still the greatest thing around. Just give them a little marinade, add garlic and make sure they're seasoned."

### KEEP YOUR PANTRY WELL-STOCKED

Investing in staples can end up saving you money because then you can quickly make last-minute meals instead of ordering in. "I

try to keep five to 10 easy, budget-friendly meals in the house at all times," Lowell says. For her, that list includes ingredients for homemade pizza, frozen fish with fries, and a pasta dish. "It's never expensive, and I'm always happy to eat it."

### LEAN ON YOUR COMMUNITY

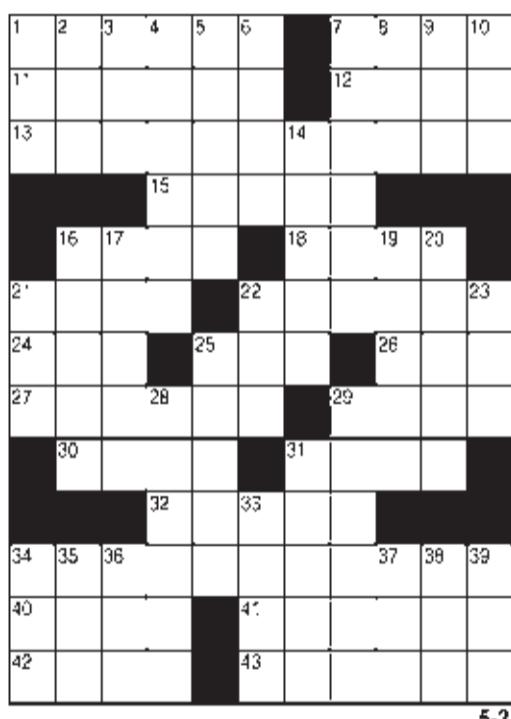
While some local food banks have eligibility requirements, many are open to all members of the community who need the support, says Willa Williams, an Orlando, Florida, area financial coach at Trinity Financial Coaching and co-host of "The Abundant Living Podcast." Some neighborhood gardens similarly offer the community vegetables and other produce at harvest time. "The food is here, so come and get it," she says. "It keeps you from spending your food budget." □

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

1 Talk inces-  
santly about  
7 Depend  
11 Singer  
Grande  
12 Lake near  
Buffalo  
13 Place for ball-  
park figures  
15 Survives  
16 Chilled  
18 First-  
rate  
21 Rain heavily  
22 Grand Canal setting  
24 Tire track  
25 Disfigure  
26 Stew sphere  
27 Decree  
29 Penny  
30 Nursery group  
31 Saucy  
32 Will names  
34 They may be squeaky  
40 Wander  
41 Jordan neighbor  
42 Fairy tale monster  
43 Fitting

**Yesterday's answer**

5-3

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-3

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

D L O M S E    L W L H P    Y H I U A

Z U S    M T    U    K X Z U S

H X V V M S Y    O L H    I P L T .

— GMZ FUHHL P

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MAY, MORE THAN ANY OTHER MONTH OF THE YEAR, WANTS US TO FEEL MOST ALIVE. — FENNEL HUDSON



Trains run near Tokyu Railways' Tamagawa Station Wednesday, April 20, 2022, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

**Major Japan railway now powered only by renewable energy**

By YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Tokyo's Shibuya is famed for its Scramble Crossing, where crowds of people crisscross the intersection in a scene symbolizing urban Japan's congestion and anonymity. It may have added another boasting right. Tokyu Railways' trains running through Shibuya and other stations were switched to power generated only by solar and other renewable sources starting April 1.

That means the carbon dioxide emissions of Tokyu's sprawling network of seven train lines and one tram service now stand at zero, with green energy being used at all its stations, including for vending machines for drinks, security camera screens and lighting.

Tokyu, which employs 3,855 people and connects Tokyo with nearby Yokohama, is the first railroad operator in Japan to have achieved that goal. It says the carbon dioxide reduction is equivalent to the annual average emissions of 56,000 Japanese households.

Nicholas Little, director of railway education at Michigan State University's Center for Railway Research and Education, commends Tokyu for promoting renewable energy but stressed the importance of boosting

the bottom-line amount of that renewable energy. "I would stress the bigger impacts come from increasing electricity generation from renewable sources," he said. "The long-term battle is to increase production of renewable electricity and provide the transmission infrastructure to get it to the places of consumption."

The technology used by Tokyu's trains is among the most ecologically friendly options for railways. The other two options are batteries and hydrogen power.

And so is it just a publicity stunt, or is Tokyu moving in the right direction?

Ryo Takagi, a professor at Kogakuin University and specialist in electric railway systems, believes the answer isn't simple because how train technology evolves is complex and depends on many uncertain societal factors.

In a nutshell, Tokyu's efforts are definitely not hurting and are probably better than doing nothing. They show the company is taking up the challenge of promoting clean energy, he said.

"But I am not going out of my way to praise it as great," Takagi said.

Bigger gains would come from switching from diesel trains in rural areas to hydrogen powered lines and

from switching gas-guzzling cars to electric, he said. Tokyu paid an undisclosed amount to Tokyo Electric Power Co., the utility behind the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, for certification vouching for its use of renewables, even as Japan continues to use coal and other fossil fuels.

"We don't see this as reaching our goal but just a start," said Assistant Manager Yoshimasa Kitano at Tokyu's headquarters, a few minutes' walk from the Scramble Crossing.

Such steps are crucial for Japan, the world's sixth-biggest carbon emitter, to attain its goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2050. Only about 20% of Japan's electricity comes from renewable sources, according to the Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies, a Tokyo-based independent non-profit research organization.

That lags way behind New Zealand, for instance, where 84% of power used comes from renewable energy sources. New Zealand hopes to make that 100% by 2035.

The renewable sources driving Tokyu trains include hydropower, geothermal power, wind power and solar power, according to Tokyo Electric Power Co., the utility that provides the electricity and tracks its energy sourcing. □



## The Judds, Ray Charles join the Country Music Hall of Fame

By KRISTIN M. HALL

AP Entertainment Writer

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — Ray Charles and The Judds joined the Country Music Hall of Fame on Sunday in a ceremony filled with tears, music and laughter, just a day after Naomi Judd died unexpectedly.

The loss of Naomi Judd altered the normally celebratory ceremony, but the music played on, as the genre's singers and musicians mourned the country legend while also celebrating the four inductees: The Judds, Ray Charles, Eddie Bayers and Pete Drake. Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Vince Gill and many more performed their hit songs.

Naomi and Wynonna Judd were among the most popular duos of the 1980s, scoring 14 No. 1 hits during their nearly three-decade career. On the eve of her induction, the family said in a statement to The Associated Press that Naomi Judd died at the age of 76 due to "the disease of mental illness."

Daughters Wynonna and Ashley Judd accepted the induction amid tears, holding onto each other and reciting a Bible verse together.

"I'm sorry that she couldn't hang on until today," Ash-



Wynonna Judd blows a kiss to attendees during the Medallion Ceremony at the Country Music Hall of Fame Sunday, May 1, 2022, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

ley Judd said of her mother to the crowd while crying. Wynonna Judd talked about the family gathering as they said goodbye to her and she and Ashley Judd recited Psalm 23. "Though my heart is broken I will continue to sing," Wynonna Judd said.

Fans gathered outside the museum, drawn to a white floral bouquet outside the entrance and a small framed photo of Naomi Judd below. A single rose was laid on the ground. Charles' induction show-

cased his genre-defying country releases, which demonstrated country music's commercial appeal. The Georgia-born singer and piano player grew up listening to the Grand Ole Opry and in 1962 released "Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music," which became one of the best selling country releases of his era.

Blinded and orphaned at a young age, Charles is best known for R&B, gospel and soul, but his decision to record country mu-

sic changed the way the world thought about the genre, expanding audiences in the Civil Rights era. Charles' version of "I Can't Stop Loving You," spent five weeks on top of the Billboard 100 chart and remains one of his most popular songs. He died in 2004. Brooks sang "Seven Spanish Angels," one of Charles' hits with Willie Nelson, while Bettye LaVette performed "I Can't Stop Loving You." Country Music Hall of Famer Ronnie Milsap said he met Charles when he was a

young singer and that others tried to imitate Charles, but no one could measure up.

"There was one of him and only one," said Milsap. "He sang country music like it should be sung."

Charles is only the third Black artist to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, alongside Opry pioneer DeFord Bailey and Charley Pride.

The Hall of Fame also inducted two recordings musicians who were elemental to so many country songs and singers: Eddie Bayers and Pete Drake.

Bayers, a drummer in Nashville for decades who worked on 300 platinum records, is a member of the Grand Ole Opry band. He regularly played on records for The Judds, Ricky Skaggs, George Strait, Alan Jackson and Kenny Chesney. He is the first drummer to join the institution.

Drake, who died in 1988, was a pedal steel guitar player and a member of Nashville's A-team of skilled session musicians, played on hits like "Stand By Your Man" by Tammy Wynette and "He Stopped Loving Her Today" by George Jones. He is the first pedal steel guitar player to become part of the Hall of Fame. □



James Corden arrives at the 2019 Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Annual Grants Banquet at the Beverly Wilshire Beverly Hills on Wednesday, July 31, 2019

Associated Press

By LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — James Corden said he will be bowing out of his late-night CBS TV show next year, calling it a "good time to move

on and see what else might be out there."

Corden announced his decision during the taping of Thursday's "The Late Late Show," which he began hosting in 2015.

## 'Carpool Karaoke' king James Corden leaving late-night show

"When I started this journey, it was always going to be just that. It was going to be a journey, an adventure. I never saw it as my final destination, you know?" he said. "And I never want this show to overstay its welcome in any way. I always want to love making it."

Corden, who didn't offer details on what course his career might take next, said the late-night show "has changed my life. ... I am so proud of what we've achieved. It's been beyond my wildest, wildest dreams." He'll remain with the show for another year, he said, promising that it will "go out with a bang."

and, he predicted, with "so many tears."

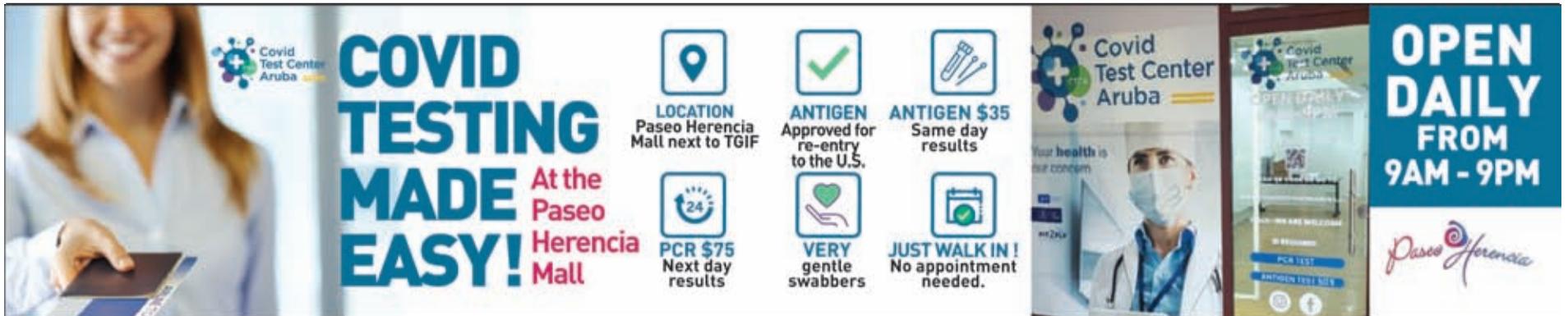
In a statement, CBS President and CEO George Cheeks lauded Corden for taking "huge creative and comedic swings," including the "Carpool Karaoke" videos in which Corden and pop stars including Adele and Paul McCartney performed sing-alongs on the road.

Corden's contract was to expire this August, but the London-born actor and writer extended the agreement for another season. He will leave the show that airs weeknights at 12:37 a.m. Eastern in spring 2023. "We wish he could stay lon-

ger, but we are very proud he made CBS his American home and that this partnership will extend one more season on 'The Late Late Show,'" Cheeks said.

The network had no further comment, including on who might replace Corden. The show's previous host was Craig Ferguson.

Corden was considered an unlikely pick when he was named host of "The Late Late Show." He'd starred in the British sitcom "Gavin & Stacey" and was a Tony Award winner in 2012 for his Broadway performance in "One Man, Two Guvnors," but wasn't widely known by U.S. viewers. □



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## Chase Elliott wins at Dover to snap 26-race winless streak

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

**DOVER, Del. (AP)** — Chase Elliott had a front-row seat for the Hendrick Motorsports trophy celebrations and photo shoots and all the kitschy social media posts created as one by one — and as his three teammates won, and won and won again — they all brought home checkered flags.

Elliott rarely needs a motivational nudge to park his Chevy in victory lane, so while he felt happy for the drivers, he didn't necessarily use their successes as a means to create artificial fire to try to match them. "My drive to win and my job to do my job to the best of my ability doesn't change whether we are struggling, whether we are doing very good, whether I'm in a contract year or not, whether my teammates have won and I haven't," Elliott said.

He drove to the best of his ability again Monday at Dover Motor Speedway and earned his first victory of the season, making Hendrick Motorsports drivers 4 for 4 in the win column this season. It's barely May and Elliott, Kyle Larson, William Byron and Alex Bowman already are locked into the playoffs.

The summer run will be a tuneup for the 10-race shootout.

There's a new car this season in NASCAR — and the same old results for Hendrick at Dover.

Elliott snapped a 26-race winless streak when the 2020 NASCAR champion led the final 53 laps to win his 14th career Cup race. He gave team owner Rick Hendrick another triumph on the mile concrete track. Elliott followed Bowman's checkered flag a year ago as a Hendrick driver won

for the 22nd time at Dover. Hendrick swept the top four spots last season; this one

out of the gate with early season wins; Byron already has two wins. Elliott has only

spot looked familiar at Dover, but that was just the tip of four different teams in the

lost serious ground after a left-front tire wasn't properly attached to his No. 11 Toyota and rolled down the track. Hamlin apologized this week for posting a crass anti-Asian meme on Twitter.

Hamlin worked his way back into fourth when he connected with Cody Ware and brought out the caution on Lap 242. Hamlin finished 21st.

Larson also spun on the frontstretch and blew the front and rear right tires on his Chevrolet. AJ Allmendinger also lost a tire. Allmendinger's and Hamlin's teams are expected to receive NASCAR punishments for the loose wheels.

### DOVER FUTURE

Dover wrapped its only NASCAR weekend of the season. The track traditionally held two NASCAR weekends but moved one race date last season to Nashville Superspeedway. Dover hosted one race weekend in 1969 and 1970 and then held two races every season from 1971 to 2020.

Speedway Motorsports bought the track (Dover Motorsports) late last year. Speedway Motorsports President Marcus Smith worked the Dover gates and greeted fans Monday with the track short-staffed because of the postponement.

"I think it's a great event and I hope we continue to race there for a long time. It's definitely a cool place," Bowman said.

### UP NEXT

The Cup Series races next Sunday at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina. Truex is the defending race winner. Toyota is set to celebrate its 1,500th NASCAR race during Darlington's annual Throwback Weekend. □



Chase Elliott, center, celebrates in Victory Lane after a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Dover Motor Speedway, Monday, May 2, 2022, in Dover, Del.

Associated Press

clinched the four playoff spots.

Elliott, who leads the points standings, hopped on the window ledge of his No. 9 Chevrolet and pointed in appreciation toward a solid crowd for a weekday race. The finish was delayed a day because of rain.

"We just had some good circumstances, finally," Elliott said. "We've had some tough races over the last four, five months. This one means a lot in so many different ways. Hope to see this big crowd here next year."

His last win was July 4 at Road America.

Even without a win, Elliott had been building toward this moment. The 2020 NASCAR champion and reigning most popular driver, Elliott took a steady pace while his teammates burst

one finish worse than 14th this season and rolled into Dover with three straight top-10 finishes at Martinsville, Bristol dirt and Talladega.

"If you just look at the box score, you don't see it," crew chief Alan Gustafson said. "But I think we've been pretty close."

Elliott snatched the lead from Ross Chastain, last week's watermelon-smashing winner at Talladega Superspeedway, and pulled away on the concrete. Chastain led 86 laps and Kyle Busch, who finished seventh, led a race-high 103.

"I feel like we've had a lot of pace at different times throughout the year," Elliott said. "We just hadn't put an entire race together until today."

A Hendrick car in the top

top four spots. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. was second and had his first top-five finish of the season for JTG Daugherty Racing. Chastain was third for Trackhouse Racing and Joe Gibbs Racing driver Christopher Bell finished fourth.

Martin Truex Jr. spun himself out on the last lap while racing for a top-five finish when he appeared to get boxed out by Chastain. Truex confronted Chastain on pit road.

"We were talking about where we were going to go fishing next week," Chastain cracked. "I'm racing with champions and I got beat." One of those champions? The one whose Chevy was dotted in confetti in victory lane.

### TIRED OUT

Denny Hamlin, who won the first stage of the race,

## Flores lawyer: Unconscionable for Goodell to arbitrate suit

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A lawyer for a Black NFL coach who sued the league alleging racist hiring practices told a judge Monday that arbitration is the wrong way to resolve the lawsuit in part because NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell would be the arbitrator and that would be "unconscionable."

Attorney Douglas Wigdor said the league was trying to force "behind closed doors" the claims of Brian Flores and two other Black coaches. None of the coaches was present for the Manhattan federal court hearing.

It was the first hearing for a lawsuit Flores filed in February, when he claimed the



**Miami Dolphins head coach Brian Flores stands on the sidelines during an NFL football game against the New York Jets on Nov. 21, 2021, in East Rutherford, N.J.**

Associated Press

league was "rife with racism" even as the NFL pub-

licly condemns it.

Flores was fired in January

as head coach by the Miami Dolphins after leading

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the team to a 24-25 record over three years, with two straight winning seasons including the most recent, when a 9-8 record left them out of the playoffs. He has been hired since as an assistant coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

His lawsuit was joined last month by two other coaches, Steve Wilks and Ray Horton.

There are six minority head coaches currently in the NFL, a league where the majority of the players are Black.

Former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, representing the NFL, told Judge Valerie E. Caproni that the league believes all claims in the lawsuit must be moved to arbitration according to the terms of employment agreements.

Wigdor said the league demonstrated "this unconscionable bias of the arbitrator" when the NFL said the claims in the lawsuit were without merit after it was first filed. He said it would not be fair for Goodell to arbitrate the claims after he earned \$120 million over the last two years from the league's teams.

Lynch said she invited the three coaches and their lawyers to meet with league officials to discuss the "important issues" surrounding racial inclusion that the NFL seeks to address. "Today, they declined to meet with us," she said. Wigdor said he rejected the league's invitation to discuss racial issues because there would be no magistrate judge or judge present.

For now, the judge has put the lawsuit on the slow track, setting up a schedule stretching into August for the submission of written arguments regarding whether arbitration is required.

That schedule is likely to be delayed further once Wigdor formally informs the judge that he wants to seek permission to collect evidence surrounding the arbitration practices of the league before the issue is resolved. □